

Minutes of Tuesday, October 4, 2011, CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger. and S. Rajagopal.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2011 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from September 6, 2011 were approved, motioned by F. Esposito and 2nd by S. Carroll, with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2011 AND JANUARY 2012.

Every first Tuesday except no meeting in July. Chatham Township municipal building 7:15 PM: Nov 1, Dec 6 in 2011, and second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012.

GREEN TEAM MEETING S. Carroll, Green Team Chair

Green Fair 9/24/11- Display consisted of the green challenge and NJ Clean Energy program. 22 signatures were collected.

Signatures between 100-250 are needed. Frank took pictures, which are on the website.

Reviewed proposed SJ actions, continued discussion on whether to obtain bronze or silver status.

Green Team meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Waiting for completeness review.

NEW. Russo, B 39 L 30, 112 Candace Lane. 7-27-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for rear yard setback to construct a deck. There is a conservation easement on the steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

NEW. Cox, B 48.21 L 164.21, 20Britten Rd. 8-18-11. Application to NJDEP for a General Permit to disturb wetlands in order to repair a failing septic system. Appears to be routine, no comment necessary from CTEC.

NEW. White, B40 L8, 791River Rd. 8-25-11. Application to NJDEP for a General Permit and Individual Transition Area Waiver for expansion of existing structures. Probably routine request for a GP8 for 750 sq ft expansion of house, suggest no comment necessary from CTEC.

NEW. Candace Lane – Variance for addition on back of house, steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

CLOSED. LOI and General Permit application. Cheney. 7-18-11. 348 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 39.03. Tributary of Black Brook passes through southwest corner. Along the southwest property line there is an access easement to Township-owned property in the rear. Letter to NJDEP was sent.

PENDING. PSE&G expansion of power line right-of-way. 6-13-11, application to NJDEP for freshwater wetlands general permit to do construction work along the ROW. Memo to NJDEP with a similar memo to NJBPU was mailed and also was presented at the public hearing on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

CLOSED. FAIRMOUNT AVENUE & JOHNSON DRIVE. 3-4-11. Block 38, Lots 44 & 45. Primavera Parkview, LLC. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 2 lot minor subdivision on corner of Fairmount and Johnson. Application has been approved, no conservation easement.

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road. Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a fifth of the lot. Proposed lots will be sewerred; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. The EIS prepared by PK Environmental is quite good and better than most that are reviewed by CTEC. Two nearby homes are on septic and one home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio. Planning Board meeting of 10/3/11 was cancelled, applicant was not ready. Regarding the Longview/Fenix application, there are concerns for Jodi Lane. The applicant is improving impervious coverage, more swales and better stormwater management.

Township Committee report. D. Stillinger for K. Tubbs – Conservation easement ordinance posted on website. TC waiting on discussion from Planning Board on recommendation to adopt.

Open Space Committee report. D. Travisano.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington, K. Abbott. Pat to speak at ANJEC at the NJSLOM conference on 10/15 regarding the rocket composter. Pat is finishing the report to receive the additional funds for the rocket composter grant. The residents need to know the process of single stream recycling. MUA does not supply information. Frank is preparing educational information to be posted on website.

Safe Routes to School – CTEC and Open Space are working together on this project – this will decrease traffic, increase safety and encourage fitness.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito, D. Travisano, P. Collington. – Shankar to set up filters to reduce spam on CTEC email account. CTEC on Verizon Fios channel.

Recycling Committee report. F. Esposito. MUA does not supply recycling information. CTEC needs to establish information on recycling for the residents.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Report on Green Fair. – pictures emailed to commission members
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11. Will do most of the updating with volunteers. Next meeting is Monday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 PM at the municipal building. All welcome to participate. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.
- A memo was submitted to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump on Township property on Green Village Road, now called the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, making possible a future nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.
- Model conservation easement agreement has been discussed by the Township Committee and will now be reviewed by the Planning Board. The ordinance is on the Township web site under Proposed Ordinances. D. Stillinger, L. Caprioglio.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.
- Note the Chatham Township parcel and conservation easement mapping site. To find out owner and land information about parcels and conservation easements go to chathamtownship.org, click on GIS Mapping and follow the prompts. Click the word "parcels" in the layer list, click the Identify tool at the top and then click on the parcel on the map to see information such as owner & area. Click the word "conservation easements", click the Identify tool, click the easement to see details of the conservation easements.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- October 2011 – Transco – Standard memo to NJSEP commenting on granting permit for Transco to do work within the right of way.
- September 2011. Memos to NJBPU and NJDEP urging caution in granting permits to PSE&G for upgrade construction, letter to NJDEP commenting on LOI application for Block 144, Lot 39.03.

EVENTS

- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Madison Library.
- Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 8:00am - 10:00am, Frelinghuysen Arboretum.
Morris County Green Table Forum <<http://morrisgreentable.org/>> Bioretention Basins - Cost Effective Stormwater Management the Native Way. Guest Speakers: Pat Rector - County Environmental and Resource Management Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Dr. Stephen Souza - President, Princeton Hydro, Art Vespignani (Moderator) - Whippany River Watershed Action Committee.
- Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 7:30 pm. Eco Film and Discussion Series of the Chathams showing of Carbon Nation at the Library of the Chathams, free of charge.
- Sat., October 15, ANJEC Environmental Congress, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft. NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin will speak. \$70 for CTEC members.
- Thurs., Oct. 20, 4:30-6:30 PM. Celebration of 50 Years of NJDEP's Green Acres Program. D&R Greenway Land Trust, Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Pl., Princeton, NJ, \$20.
- Fri., Oct. 21, 6 PM. Environmental Workshop with Sustainable Jersey facilitated by The Citizens Campaign. Bergen Community College, Lyndhurst. thecitizenscampaign.com/eventlist/8-call-to-service/197-environmental-conference-with-sustainable-jersey.html. Free.
- Thursday, October 27, 10 AM. Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown.
- Tues. Nov. 15, Wed. Nov. 16, Thurs. Nov. 17, 2011, NJ League of Municipalities convention and the related Sustainable Jersey convention, both at convention in Atlantic City.
 - 1. Tues. Nov. 15 is the Sustainable Jersey Luncheon. To register for the Sustainable Jersey Luncheon on Tues. Nov. 15 as a CTEC Green Team Member use this form: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/editor/doc/ptraining36.pdf>.
 - 2. Thurs. Nov. 17. CTEC was asked to speak. Scheduled to speak at a short workshop on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 10:45 AM about our Sustainable Jersey Grant Project-food composting "Save It To Spade It".
 - 3. To register for the whole NJ League of Municipalities Convention and for details on each workshop go to <http://www.njslom.org/96thconf/index.html>.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Newsletters and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:45 PM

Carolyn Scannelli